

Adult Literacy Contact Centre NEWSLETTER



March 1992

Volume 5, Number 3

A project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C.

OLA Pilot for B.C. Construction Workers

Sixty-nine tradespeople representing a cross-section of the B.C. construction industry are currently taking part in a pilot project which promotes basic skills upgrading -- including computer and literacy training -- designed for the adult learner.

The program -- called the SkillPlan Basic Skills Upgrading Project -- was developed by the B.C. Construction Industry Skills Improvement Council at the direction of the Construction Labour Relations Association and the B.C. and Yukon Territory Building and Construction Trades Council, in partnership with the Open Learning Agency (OLA).

The pilot is part of an evaluation funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology. The project began December 16, 1991 and training sessions -- at the OLA's Burnaby Learning Centre Skills Lab -- will continue until June 16, 1992.

The program is designed for the adult learner in the construction industry with English language and/or basic skills upgrading needs. It uses an integrated learning system approach, which includes face-to-face instruction, small group learning and computer enhanced training. It

incorporates authentic materials from the learners' workplace, home and community environment -- for example, materials used in the various construction trades.

Lynda Fownes, SkillPlan Research Director, says participants in the project, identified through a recruitment program initiated by SkillPlan and the OLA, "represent quite a range, from nearly a dozen trades areas, and vary in age from 24 to 55." Participants include construction labourers, carpenters, painters, roofers, plumbers, cement masons, sheet metal workers, insulators and others.

Certification available to students in the program includes the Adult Basic Education Intermediate and Advanced Certificates (Grades 10 and 11 equivalency), Provincial Articulation (Grade 12 equivalency), and the Provincial General Educational Development (GED) Certificate. Learners may also receive applicable OLA transferable credits and certificates of completion.

A needs assessment of 22 participants got underway last December 1. 69 students are currently in the program as of February 28, 1992, and Fownes says she expects more than

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100 learners in total will be identified, assessed and interviewed during 1992.

Participating staff in the pilot project are an advisor and administrators from SkillPlan; and instructional staff, a Burnaby Learning Centre Basic Skills Lab manager, and administrators from the OLA.

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"How-to" Guide for Community Groups

A guide for community-based literacy groups and the development of literacy partnerships in B.C. will soon be available to the literacy field.

Partnerships in Literacy: A Guide for Community Organization and Program Development is the report from a 1989/90 cost-shared project between the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology (MAETT) and the National Literacy Secretariat. The report was written by two University College of the Fraser Valley literacy instructors, Barbara Bate and Wendy Watson.

The project was "inspired by" a "significant recommendation" of the 1989 Provincial Literacy Advisory Committee (PLAC) Report (*Opening the Doors to Lifelong Learning*:

Empowering Undereducated Adults) to the MAETT:

"Business, labour, community organizations libraries, native organizations, colleges and schools have partnership roles to play in every community."

The guide focuses on four major areas:

- ◆ Developing a Community Literacy Organization -- Includes "how-to" advice for new groups such as:
 - ◆ registering as a society
 - ◆ building a strong board
 - ◆ accessing the media
 - ◆ conducting a public awareness campaign
 - ◆ fundraising
 - ◆ hiring staff
- ◆ Implementing a Community Literacy Program -- Provides chapters on such topics as recruiting volunteers, tutor training, credentials of literacy practitioners, assessing learners, matching learners and tutors, and program evaluation.
- ◆ Literacy Partnerships -- Background information and names and addresses for literacy-affiliated contacts in libraries, the media, business, labour, and national and provincial advocacy groups.
- ◆ Community Literacy Programs and Projects -- Approximately 36 literacy groups are listed as a result of a program survey. These include Project Literacy groups from around the province, as well as

college and school district programs, and independent organizations.

Partnerships in Literacy was distributed in February to community colleges, community-based literacy groups, out-of-province Ministries of post-secondary education, and other members of the literacy field.

The guide can be ordered (cite order number VA0118) from:

Provincial Curriculum Publications
Marketing Department
Open Learning Agency
P.O. Box 82,080
Burnaby, B.C.
V5C 5P2
Phone: 431-3210
Fax: 431-3333 □

Legal Services Project Funding Available

March 31, 1992 is the deadline for B.C. community groups involved in public legal education to apply for 1992/93 project funding from the Legal Services Society of British Columbia.

The Community Program, under the society's Public Legal Education and Information Department (PLEID), has grants of up to \$4000.00 available to groups that "help explain the law or the legal system to its members or to the public."

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The mandate of the PLEID is to deliver public legal education and information services for three areas: education, libraries and community groups.

Carol McEown, Director of the Community Program, PLEID, confirms that "literacy groups and programs can qualify for the funding." The society, she points out, "has already funded legal inserts in the *Westcoast Reader*, a newspaper written in plain language for the beginning adult reader."

Other projects funded in the past include: the production of pamphlets on welfare rights, family law, and community legal resources, and workshops on topics such as land claims, human rights and child apprehension.

The program can provide "full or partial support to a [qualifying] project or to a suitable component of a larger program or service." It can also "co-fund projects which are receiving support from other agencies." But the grants are not intended to provide core funding, permanent salaries or equipment.

Projects which "benefit the disadvantaged" receive priority.

For more information or to obtain an application form, contact:

Legal Services Society of B.C.
Suite 300, Box 3
1140 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 4G1
Phone: 660-4600
Fax: 660-9578 □

Brochure Outlines Employees' Rights

Plain language information on employees' rights in the workplace is available in a free brochure called *Fair Working Conditions*. The March 1991 brochure is a publication of the Public Legal Education Society and the People's Law School. The Legal Services Society of B.C. and the federal Department of Justice provided financial assistance.

The People's Law School is a non-profit society based in Vancouver whose purpose is to "provide British Columbians with accurate and impartial information about their rights and responsibilities under the law."

Fair Working Conditions, in a question and answer format and plain language, covers the rights of workers under the Employment Standards Act, a provincial law which sets the rules about working conditions in B.C. The brochure answers questions about topics such as wages, work hours, vacations,

maternity and parental leave, layoffs, firing, and unemployment insurance sick benefits.

The brochure is one of dozens of titles listed in the Society's *1991/92 Publications Catalogue*. The catalogue lists the titles of current print materials in the following areas published and distributed by the society:

- * Legal Services Society Programs and services
- * Native Law
- * Self-Help
- * Teaching Law
- * Advocacy Training Materials

Many of the publications are free of charge. To order *Fair Working Conditions* or a copy

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622 - 510 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6B 1L8
1-800-663-1293 Toll-free in B.C.
684-0624 Lower Mainland
684-8520 Facsimile

The Adult Literacy Contact Centre is a project of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. and is jointly funded by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology; and the National Literacy Secretariat.

The Centre welcomes receiving your literacy news by phone, fax or mail. We reserve the right to edit written submissions for the newsletter.

The newsletter is published monthly and mailed during the first week of every month. It is available free of charge to any individual or agency upon request.



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of the catalogue, contact:

Distribution Clerk
Legal Services Society of B.C.
Suite 300, Box 3
1140 West Pender Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 4G1
Phone: 660-4600
Fax: 660-9578 □

Plain Language Help for Job Seekers

A plain language reference book for job seekers with moderate reading skill levels is now available.

Job Guide, an information resource for classrooms and counselling centres, was developed by the Education Information Centre (EIC) Consortium and funded as a 1990/1991 literacy cost-shared project by the Ministry of Advanced Education, Training and Technology and the National Literacy Secretariat, Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada.

Job Guide focuses on jobs that require two years or less of full-time post-secondary education (or the part-time equivalent) and apprenticeship training. It includes 26 job groupings displayed on two-page spreads. Each spread provides brief descriptions of jobs in the grouping, their educational requirements, an occupational

profile and information on the job market. The jobs are classified according to Employment and Immigration Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC).

Some examples of job areas in the *Job Guide* include agriculture; the fishing, forest and construction industries; health care; education; sales; and food services. Program information for the *Job Guide* was taken from the following sources: current editions of two MAETT publications, *Choices* and *B.C. Colleges and Institutes*; the Open Learning Agency's *Discovery Training Network*; *EIC Occupational Profiles*; and various college calendars.

Nadine Millar, EIC Coordinator, says the *Job Guide* will be useful "anywhere where adult basic education [ABE] and literacy counselling is available." One thousand complimentary copies of the *Job Guide* were distributed in early February to ABE administrators, post-secondary institute libraries and student services, public libraries, Employment and Immigration offices, and other agencies.

The EIC was established in 1980 as a source for information about advanced education in B.C.

The *Job Guide* is \$10.00 (which includes postage and handling). To order, contact:

Nadine Millar, Coordinator
Education Information Centre
Consortium
Main Floor, 515 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 5K3
Phone: 681-4636 □

ABEABC Conference Names Speakers

Two keynote speakers from the adult education field and a choice of 24 workshop topics have been announced for the annual general meeting and conference of the Adult Basic Education Association of B.C. at the Harrison Hot Springs Hotel in Harrison Lake April 1-4, 1992.

Douglas College President Bill Day and educational consultant Laurie Anderson will be the keynote speakers. Day has worked in school district adult education for 12 years and with the college system for 22 years. He is co-chair of the Lower Mainland Multiculturalism Project, a consortium of all Lower Mainland colleges and school districts which is working to address the diverse ethnic nature of B.C.'s population within the public education system. Anderson is an educational consultant with 10 years experience in industry and 15 years in education. He

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has worked with adult learners for nine years.

The conference will also feature a panel of representatives from several post-secondary institutions and school districts on the topic, "How Can Adults Access Post-Secondary Education?"

The 24 workshops include:

Education in the Workplace (Thursday, April 2):

A panel representing learners from the Vancouver Municipal Workplace Program; the Hastings Institute; the Vancouver School Board; Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE); and the Vancouver Municipal and Regional Employees' Union (VMREU). Facilitator will be Gary Pharness, Workplace Language Program, City of Vancouver.

Eight Steps for Generating Community Awareness for Literacy (Thursday, April 2):

A "how-to" workshop designed to provide participants with the skills necessary to generate community awareness of literacy, including how to communicate with the media and develop partnerships with interested groups. To be facilitated by Nancy Spooner, Director of Public Relations, McKim Advertising (Vancouver), the agency responsible for directing the Literacy Public Awareness

Campaign, a B.C. literacy cost-shared project.

Adult Literacy Cost-Shared Projects (Friday, April 3):

A historical retrospective on the federal-provincial funding program, including highlights of completed projects, current criteria and guidelines for funding, and a discussion of potential project ideas.

Workshop to be given by Patty Bossort, B.C. Literacy Cost-Shared Projects Liaison.

The theme of the conference is "Cooperation in Adult Education: It's Time to Work Together." The conference is sponsored by the Lower Mainland school districts.

The registration deadline has been extended to March 15, 1992.

For more information, contact:

Nita Jacob
Coordinator
Adult Basic Education
Coquitlam School District
Phone: 936-4261
Fax: 936-6594 □

UPDATE....Ellen's Story, the TV documentary about a Victoria woman's lifelong struggle with low literacy skills (*ALCC Newsletter, February 1992, Volume 5, Number 2, page 1*) is currently scheduled to air in April on some Vancouver Island and Lower Mainland stations. Watch for broadcast dates in the next *ALCC Newsletter*.

Communities on Agenda at Whistler

Community partnerships in literacy and workforce education programs will both be on the agenda at an international conference for adult and continuing educators in Whistler B.C. in May.

"Learning to Build Communities" will be held May 10-13, 1992 at the Whistler Conference Centre. The event is hosted by the British Columbia Association of Continuing Education Administrators; the Northwest Adult Education Association; the Pacific Association for Continuing Education (PACE); and the Private Career Training Association.

The objective of the conference is to "involve participants in addressing the social, political, ecological and economic concerns" of their various communities. The Conference Convenor is Michael Clague, Director of Policy and Programs, Social Planning and Research Council (SPARC) of British Columbia.

One of the featured speakers at the conference is William Ardell, executive vice-president and chief operating officer, Southam, Inc., and chairman of ABC Canada, a national private-sector foundation which promotes literacy. Ardell will

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speak on "Creating Community Partnerships for Literacy" at a lunch sponsored by Canada Post Corporation on May 12.

Approximately 40 workshops and concurrent sessions are scheduled around a variety of themes, including "Adult Basic Education." Topics included in this session are: planning workforce education programs; becoming a community of readers and writers; and components of effective employment training.

Some other themes are "Community Economic Development," "Corrections Education," "Multicultural Issues" and "Successful Educational Methods."

The three keynote speakers at the conference are:

❖ Nanaimo Mayor Joy Leach, a community development specialist who has worked in education, community services and the arts for the past 20 years;

❖ Professor John McKnight, Director of Community Studies, Center for Urban Affairs and Policy Research, and Professor of Communication Studies and Urban Affairs, Northwestern University; and

❖ Professor William Vanderburg, Director, Center for Technology and Social Development, University of Toronto.

The conference is expected to attract over 400 participants from the fields of adult and continuing education, correctional education, literacy and workplace instruction, volunteer and community organizations, social services, native affairs, business, unions, and labour.

The early registration deadline is April 1, 1992. To obtain a registration package, contact:

Christina Schlattner, Conference Coordinator
"Learning to Build Communities"
Continuing Studies
Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre
515 West Hastings Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6B 5K3
Phone: 291-5086
Fax: 291-5098 ☐

Vancouver to Host Disability Conference

A major session on Disability and Literacy and a workshop by the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada (LDAC) are part of the "Independence 92 International Conference and Exposition on Disability" to be held in Vancouver next month.

The conference, a project of the B.C. Pavilion Corporation, will attract representatives of worldwide disability organizations. It will be held April 22-25 at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre.

(Registration remains open until the conference begins.)

The event is sponsored by the federal Department of Health and Welfare and the Department of the Secretary of State; the Province of British Columbia; the University of British Columbia; *Abilities* magazine (the official publication of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation); and the Man in Motion World Tour Society. Honorary Chair is Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who will take part in the opening plenary session, along with Man in Motion Chair, Rick Hansen.

The major session, "Disability and Literacy: A Two Way Relationship," scheduled for April 23, will provide "a global perspective on the relationship between literacy and disability, [between] education and independence." A one-day workshop by the LDAC, "Literacy and Learning," on innovative materials, informal screening protocols and teaching strategies, is scheduled for April 22.

Contact:

"Independence 92"
Suite 301 - 1190 Melville Street
Vancouver, B.C.
V6E 3W1
Phone: 689-5084
Fax: 689-4806 ☐